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# ***Messages From the Department of Education***

**March 2012**

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## ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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### A. Accountability System

New Hampshire has decided to pursue an independent accountability system. For the past four months Commissioner Barry has been meeting with a taskforce of local superintendents, principals, teachers, parents and other stakeholders to analyze the requirements associated with the US Department of Education's proposal to waive certain parts of the NCLB. We also received feedback from legislative, business, union, district, and school board representatives before deciding to continue to develop our own plan that works for our state, our schools, our educators, and our students. This includes comprehensive planning and other supports to build an educator effectiveness model to support local efforts to connect teacher and principal effectiveness to multiple measures of student performance. The Department is already developing such a model to be piloted next school year with those districts that have voluntarily chosen to receive federal School Improvement Grants. The Department will continue to explore with stakeholders the elements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act waiver.

Contact: Paul Leather, (603) 271-3801, [Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov)

### B. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

#### a) Public Release of Reports

AYP reports will be released publically at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 3, 2012. Confidential student-level data will be available via the password-protected secure Web site at Measured Progress starting at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, April 2, 2012.

Contact: Tim Kurtz, (603) -271-3846, [Timothy.Kurtz@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Timothy.Kurtz@doe.nh.gov)

#### b) Annual Workshops Schedule

Two workshops have been scheduled in conjunction with the release of Adequate Yearly Progress and school and district improvement status.

- The *Understanding AYP* workshop is on April 10th from 10:00 a.m.-noon at the Walker Building, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord, Room 100 (first floor)
- The *How to File an Appeal* workshop is on April 10th from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Walker Building, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord, Room 100 (first floor)

Go to [www.surveymonkey.com/s/AYPWorkshopRegistration](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AYPWorkshopRegistration) to register for the workshops.

Contact: Marcia McCaffrey, (603) 271-3193, [Marcia.McCaffrey@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Marcia.McCaffrey@doe.nh.gov)

#### c) Appeals Reviewers Needed

As in past years, the DOE will include reviewers from outside the Department as members of AYP appeal review teams. By including school and district personnel on review teams, the appeal process is more transparent to school and district staff; the process is improved with the expertise of local administrators and educators. Please recommend any staff you believe would be a valuable contributor and willing

participant. In order for individuals to be reviewers, they must be available to participate in the following:

- Reviewer's training held at the DOE in the State Board Room from 1:00 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 30, 2012 and
- Review of appeals held at the DOE in Room 12 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2012.

It would also be helpful for the reviewers to attend two workshops on April 10th (see message above).

If school or district staff would like to submit their name as a reviewer please contact Ellie Riel at [Ellie.Riel@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Ellie.Riel@doe.nh.gov).

Contact: Marcia McCaffrey, (603) 271-3193, [Marcia.Mccaffrey@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Marcia.Mccaffrey@doe.nh.gov)

### **C. Common Core State Standards (CCSS)**

Visit the SERESC Web site ([www.seresc.net](http://www.seresc.net)) for CCSS Sessions that will be offered during the first two weeks of April. Three sessions are being offered. One session is designed to provide guidance relating to the implementation of Common Core including the transition to Smarter Balanced summative assessment. An implementation framework will be shared during this session. The other two sessions take a closer look at the Common Core Standards for Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects.

On February 14, 2012 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium launched a new and informative Web site ([www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org)) that provides detailed timelines and integrated social media updates. Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium working collaboratively to develop next-generation assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards that accurately measure student progress toward college and career readiness.

Contact: Joseph Miller, (603) 271-3594, [Joseph.Miller@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Joseph.Miller@doe.nh.gov)

### **D. Longitudinal Reports**

Longitudinal reports show disaggregated New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) data over time. These reports were updated on February 7, 2012 to include Fall 2011 NECAP results. They can be found at [www.education.nh.gov/longitudinalreports](http://www.education.nh.gov/longitudinalreports).

Contact: Lauren Heiter, (603) 271-2035, [Lauren.Heiter@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Lauren.Heiter@doe.nh.gov)

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## **DATA**

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### **A. i4see**

#### **a) NH Alt Registration**

The i4see workbench is now open for districts to register students for the Alternative Assessment process. The window will close on May 4, 2012. School districts should register all students who are the responsibility of the district, no matter where they attend school.

## b) Spring NECAP Labels

The i4see workbench will be open for the first round of spring NECAP Science Labels from March 7 through March 29, 2012. This submission is for grades 4, 8 and 11. Please remember to use the submission type NECAPspr in the second column of these uploads. These files only need to be batch verified. CERTIFICATION of NECAPspr is not needed.

## c) Information Due School District Meetings

The Bureau of Data Management has also sent several requests for information that is due after School District Meetings. Please be sure to return school district calendars, school board lists, and your Teacher Salary Schedule for 2012-2013 as soon as the information becomes available.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, [i4see.help@doe.nh.gov](mailto:i4see.help@doe.nh.gov)

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**FUNDING**

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**A. School Facilities**

- a) Please submit Form A24F and any other missing documentation as soon as construction projects are complete. We cannot make the final payment on any project with missing documentation.
- b) We still have a number of “No Smoking” signs suitable to be mounted outside. There is no cost for the signs.
- c) DES has a few “No Idling” signs available. Contact Jessica Morton at (603) 271-1390 or [jessica.morton@des.nh.gov](mailto:jessica.morton@des.nh.gov).
- d) Annual Project Status Reports have been sent to all SAUs. Signed forms are due back by March 16th.
- e) RSA 200-11a requires each school to have an EPA Tools for Schools Kit and to conduct an annual indoor air quality survey. School principals are responsible for compliance under the RSA. The survey has been automated this year and was sent to all school principals. The survey is due by the end of the school year.
- f) The new EPA boiler inspection rule is in effect this year. All schools with oil, coal, or biomass fueled boilers must submit a notice of compliance to EPA Region I. Forms and reporting instructions may be found at [www.epa.gov/region1/boilers](http://www.epa.gov/region1/boilers).

Contact: Marjorie Schoonmaker, (603) 271-3620, [Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov)

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**GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS**

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**ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at**  
[www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm](http://www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm)

**A. New Hampshire Statewide Assessment System NH Alternate Learning Progressions Assessment (NH ALPs)**

New Hampshire has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a single contractor to assist in the ongoing development and administration of the New Hampshire Alternate Learning Progressions Assessment (NH-ALPS) at grades 2-8, and 10-11. NH-ALPS is the academic assessment based on alternate achievement standards (AA/AAS) for students with

the most cognitive disabilities. Video-based performance assessments are administered annually to approximately 1,500 students across the 9 grades. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 6, 2012.

Contact: Gaye Fedorchak, (603) 271-7383, [Gaye.Fedorchak@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Gaye.Fedorchak@doe.nh.gov)

### **B. 21st Century Community Learning Center Program**

The New Hampshire Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center Program announces its 2012 competition for an anticipated \$1.5 million in funding. The program's purpose is to raise student academic achievement through the creation and expansion of community learning centers during out of school time hours that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional activities designed to complement their regular academic program. All schools with a minimum of 30% of the student population identified as recipients of the free/reduced lunch program by October 2011 are eligible to apply. Middle and high schools are eligible if the majority of the feeder elementary schools meet the eligibility criteria. Priority points were awarded to Schools and/or Districts in Need of Improvement.

Applicants for 21st CCLC funds must demonstrate collaboration between a local educational agency (LEA) and one or more community-based organizations (CBOs), faith based organizations (FBOs) or other public or private entities and must primarily serve students who attend schools with a high concentration of economically disadvantaged students. The lead agency may be the school, district, CBO, FBO or other organization but must always partner with an eligible school. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 14.

Contact: Suzanne Birdsall, (603) 520-6263, [Suzanne.Birdsall@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Birdsall@doe.nh.gov) or  
Christina MacDonald, (603) 271-7306, [Christina.Macdonald@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Christina.Macdonald@doe.nh.gov)

### **C. USDA Summer Food Service Program Compliance Reviews**

The NH Department of Education (NHDOE) announces the availability of USDA federal funds to contract with an individual or entity for the conducting of USDA Summer Food Service Program compliance reviews. The successful bidder will conduct at least six USDA Summer Food Service Program reviews, as well as writing an administrative report on each review conducted, due by the applicable due dates listed in Project Timelines. Funding for this project is 100% federal funds; contract will be contingent on availability of federal funds. The bid will be determined and the contract signed no later than June 30, 2012. Work to commence no later than July 1, 2012 and end September 30, 2012. The chosen vendor will work in conjunction with an established NH team of professional staff led by the Bureau of Nutrition Programs and Services. Deadline for receipt of proposals: March 15, 2012.

Contact: Kathryn Hodges, (603) 271-3861, [Kathryn.Hodges@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Kathryn.Hodges@doe.nh.gov)

### **D. New Hampshire Special Education Family and School Partnership Initiative**

The Bureau of Special Education is seeking proposals from individuals, agencies, or organizations interested in developing a statewide initiative to provide the opportunity to involve/engage parents and families of children and youth with disabilities in their individual child's education, in their schools and communities regarding the special education process

at the district and school level. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 16, 2012.

Contact: Barbara Raymond, (603) 271-3791, [Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov)

### **E. New Hampshire Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM)**

The Bureau of Special Education is seeking proposals from bidders to work under the direction of the NHDOE, Bureau of Special Education to coordinate the NH Accessible Instructional Materials located in Concord, NH. The project acquires, maintains and distributes large print and Braille books, educational tools, professional resources and materials for students with a documented visual impairment and/or print disability. This project assists school districts to provide specialized formats to students with certified print disabilities. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 16, 2012.

Contact: Barbara Raymond, (603) 271-3791, [Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov)

### **F. Technical Assistance for the Educational Supports of Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

The Bureau of Special Education is seeking proposals for the coordination and implementation of a Technical Assistance Initiative for the Educational Supports of Students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide technical assistance and training to schools and families with information about federal statutes, policy guidance, and permission practices from the field of deaf education. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 16, 2012.

Contact: Barbara Raymond, (603) 271-3791, [Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov)

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## **INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES**

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### **A. Learning Studios**

The New Hampshire Department of Education is pleased to be working with the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF) to pilot Learning Studio sites in the state as part of NH's membership of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Innovation Lab Network (ILN). These pilot sites will provide a development space in which New Hampshire can develop innovative state accountability system of policies and practices for measuring 21st century skills through performance assessment and other methods.

The schools and districts, which showed considerable enthusiasm for this project, have already implemented significant innovation in a variety of areas, laying the groundwork for a successful effort. Postsecondary partners also participated and will support schools throughout the project. NCTAF's Learning Studios are *learning teams* that share the core competencies of trust, collaboration, and shared accountability for student achievement critical to all successful teams. Learning Studio teams are intentionally cross-curricular, engaging a variety of teachers on the same team. Learning Studios enable learning teams composed of accomplished educators and professionals to team up to improve student STEM achievement, increase teaching effectiveness, and amplify the impact of community resources. Through these Learning Studios, students are able to demonstrate their learning within the highly rigorous learning environment.



The schools/districts participating in this pilot include: Amherst, Dover, Hooksett, Laconia, Lebanon, Lisbon, Newfound, Pittsfield, Sanborn, Surry Village School, VLACS, Polaris Charter School, and Making Community Connections (MC<sup>2</sup>) Charter School.

Contact: Mariane Gfroerer, (603) 271-6691, [Mariane.Gfroerer@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Mariane.Gfroerer@doe.nh.gov)

## **B. Response to Intervention (RTI)**

RTI-PLC and the Steering Committee are currently working on a comprehensive RTI implementation plan for school districts. We invite your ideas and suggestions regarding what would be the most useful information to include in the document. Please send ideas and recommendations to [Elaine.Mcnulty@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Elaine.Mcnulty@doe.nh.gov).

Contact: Elaine McNulty, (603) 271-2657, [Elaine.Mcnulty@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Elaine.Mcnulty@doe.nh.gov)

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## **NH HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN**

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### **A. High School Redesign in Action**

This is the New England Secondary School Consortium's third annual conference for high school educators to share success stories, exchange best practices, and build momentum for secondary school improvement that is focused on preparing all students for success in the colleges, careers, and communities of the 21st century. It will take place Thursday and Friday, March 22-23, 2012, at the Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood, MA. To register or for more information go to [www.newenglandssc.org/conference](http://www.newenglandssc.org/conference) or contact Rebecca Vance (207) 773-0505.

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## **SCHOOL APPROVAL STANDARDS**

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**This section applies to both public and non-public schools**

- a) School approval packets for private schools whose approval expires June 30, 2012 were due back by February 1, 2012.
- b) Fire and health inspection reports are due from all schools, public and private, whose approval expires June 30, 2012.
- c) Schools conditionally approved in 2011 should submit documentation of compliance as soon as possible. Schools that have previously been conditionally approved for three years, and that are still not meeting all requirements, will be required to request a Delay in Full Compliance from the State Board in person.
- d) Responses to the Inputs Based Accountability System were due by January 13th from all public schools. A number of schools have still not completed the survey. If the status of the survey still reads "started" it has not been forwarded to the superintendent for review. Principals need to review the survey, answer any unanswered questions, and forward the survey by changing the status and saving the changes. All public schools are required to complete the survey this year.
- e) Public schools whose approval expires June 30, 2012 will receive notice of their proposed designation via e-mail through the Inputs Based Accountability System.

Schools will have 30 days to respond if they believe the proposed designation is in error. Final designations will be submitted to the State Board for approval in June.

Contact: Leslie Higgins, (603) 271-3759, [Leslie.Higgins@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Leslie.Higgins@doe.nh.gov)  
 Marie Morgan, (603) 271-4125, [Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov)

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

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### A. NH DOE Facilitator

Become a certified NH DOE facilitator and enhance your ability to lead meetings, strengthen communication, and build team capacity. The IEP Facilitation Program, coordinated by the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, trains and certifies volunteers to act as NH DOE Special Education team facilitators. Facilitators, at the request of a district or parent(s) and with both in agreement, attend an IEP (Individual Education Plan) meeting on school grounds and facilitate the meeting for all parties involved.

Volunteers must successfully complete the training for this program, agree to facilitate a minimum of eight team meetings over the 24 month period following the training, and maintain the confidentiality of information provided to them. The next two training are Saturday, March 24, 2012 at the Derry Public Library, Derry, NH from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or Saturday, June 9, 2012 at the Oscar Foss Memorial Library, Barnstead, NH from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Pamela Lindberg, (603) 271-1536, [Pamela.Lindberg@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Pamela.Lindberg@doe.nh.gov)

### B. New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS)

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education has scheduled trainings on the New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS)

The trainings will be held in Room 15 at the NHDOE.

Meeting Date	Time	Participants
Wednesday, March 14	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	NHSEIS Preschool Session Workshop
Thursday, March 29	9:00 a.m.-noon	NHSEIS Preschool Session Workshop
Friday, April 20	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	NHSEIS Office Professional Session Workshop

Contact: Terry Hersh, (603) 271-3775, [Terry.Hersh@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Terry.Hersh@doe.nh.gov)

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### A. The Career Development Bureau is Offering Professional Development Opportunities

#### a) Using Computer Programming to teach STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Concepts

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

8:30am – 2:30pm

Workshop Site: Pinkerton Academy, Derry, NH



Participants will discuss “Is Computer Programming for Everyone?” Participants will work with Python to create and use lesson plans in STEM, Vector Forces and Graphics. Norm Messa, Computer Teacher at the Seacoast School of Technology, offers a wide range of knowledge and expertise to the day. Leave with comprehensive lesson plans to use in your classroom. Computers are provided. PDUs and Lunch are included.

**b) Pre-Engineering Professional Development Day**

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

8:30am-2:30pm

Workshop Site: Little Hall, NHTI, Concord, NH

A full day of activities are planned. Participants will hear from various teachers and presenters from pre-engineering organizations. Breakout sessions will be conducted with master teachers in EBD and PLTW courses to answer questions and gain deeper knowledge. Software workshops in Inventor, Solidworks, and Key Creator will be available. Different competitions, scholarships, and best practices across the state will be highlighted.

PDUs and Lunch is included.

**c) New Hampshire Pathways To Prosperity Summit**

Thursday, May 24, 2012

8:30am-1:00pm

Nashua Community College, Nashua NH

The New Hampshire Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Career Development Bureau of the NH Department of Education are hosting a statewide conference on May 24 as part of the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Pathways to Prosperity Project. Our goal of the conference is to help better prepare young people to enter careers in manufacturing in the Granite State. We will engage education and industry to ensure alignment with current realities and workforce needs of the advanced manufacturing industry. Attendees will be manufacturers from business and industry, superintendents, principals, CTE directors, career guidance and advanced manufacturing educators.

Contact: Lisa Danley, (603) 271-3867, [lisa.danley@doe.nh.gov](mailto:lisa.danley@doe.nh.gov)

**B. Education in the 21st Century and Beyond!**

Join us for the annual Local Education Support Center Network (LESCN) spring conference, *Education in the 21st Century and Beyond!* on Friday, April 6, 2012 in Meredith, NH. Tony Baldasaro will be the opening keynote speaking on the "Institution, Ownership, and the Need to Build Participatory Cultures in Our Schools." The breakout sessions feature the topics of iPads for elementary math, expressive language apps, social media tools in the classroom, educational gaming, technology-based science inquiry investigations, differentiation and school leadership in an era of transparency. The closing keynote speaker is Patrick Larkin, principal of a Massachusetts high school that implemented 1:1 iPads this year. He will speak on the topic of creating connected learners. Learn more by visiting [www.lescn.org](http://www.lescn.org).

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, [Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov) or  
Tammy Morse, (603) 543-4200 x 261, [tmorse@sau6.k12.nh.us](mailto:tmorse@sau6.k12.nh.us)

**C. OPEN NH Online Professional Development Courses**

Registrations are now being accepted for the Spring Session of OPEN NH courses. The seven week, 35 hour online professional development courses will begin on April 4th and run through May 22nd. Districts can also request the special delivery of any of our courses over a 7-8 week time frame of their choice. To request a special delivery course, a designated team leader should complete a Special Course Delivery Registration form, available online, and send it to the OPEN NH Project Coordinator for processing, or contact the coordinator.

OPEN NH offers a variety of group discounts for SAUs, districts, or schools. Deals include 25 seats in our seven week 35 hour online professional development courses for \$2,625 or 4 seats for 2 teachers for \$440. Complete list of courses running in the OPEN NH 2012 Sessions, as well as descriptions of all courses in the OPEN NH catalogue can be found on the Web site at [www.opennh.org](http://www.opennh.org). OPEN NH is part of the NH e-Learning for Educators Project, a program of the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Teaching Enhancement courses for online course facilitation and online course development are available through the program. Visit the Web site for details. Graduate credits are available through Plymouth State University at additional cost.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, [Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov)

**D. OPEN NH Self-Paced Tutorials****a) Bullying Awareness and Prevention**

In an effort to assist schools in providing training for ALL school related employees, volunteers, substitute teachers and others, the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program and the NH e-Learning for Educators Project, both programs of the New Hampshire Department of Education, have developed a short online tutorial training on bullying awareness and prevention. This tutorial costs \$10.00 and covers basic issues surrounding bullying, the Impact of cyberbullying, and the requirements of the New Hampshire Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Act. Participants will earn a Certificate of Completion for 3 hours of professional development that will satisfy the required basic training in bullying awareness and prevention. For more information and online registration, visit [www.regonline.com/bullyingtutorial](http://www.regonline.com/bullyingtutorial).

**b) Substitute Teaching: Tools and Tips for Success**

In an effort to assist schools in preparing potential substitute teachers for teaching in NH schools, the NH e-Learning for Educators, a program of the New Hampshire Department of Education, is offering a short online tutorial through OPEN NH. This tutorial costs \$25.00 and provides basic knowledge and skills necessary for being an effective substitute teacher. Proper preparation before substituting in a school or district will greatly increase the confidence and comfort level of substitute teachers working with students in the classroom. The tutorial provides a brief overlook of education today and prepares potential substitutes with an understanding of how teachers and students interact in our changing educational landscape. Basic skills and techniques for teaching lessons to students along with some strategies for managing behavioral issues are explored. Finally, the tutorial covers a basic understanding of the kinds of policies and procedures that schools must operate under, including the NH pupil safety policy involving bullying. For more information and online registration, visit [www.regonline.com/substitutetutorial](http://www.regonline.com/substitutetutorial).

Districts may register cohorts of teachers in the tutorial(s) at reduced cohort registration rates. For more information, visit [www.opennh.org](http://www.opennh.org) or contact the OPEN NH Project Coordinator.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, [Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov)

### **E. RTI ( Response to Instruction)**

Three training sessions are scheduled for the pilot sites on the essential components of an RTI framework to establish a common language and knowledge base among the six schools. Limited space is available to additional schools that wish to send their RTI leadership team.

Topic	Date
Module 1- "Screening"	March 5, 2012
Module 2- "Progress monitoring"	April 9, 2012
Module 3- "Multi-leveled Systems of Support"	May 30, 2012

Trainings will be facilitated by national trainer, Winsome Waite, from the National Center on RTI and Elaine McNulty Knight, NH DOE RTI Coach.

Contact: Elaine McNulty, (603) 271-2657, [Elaine.Mcnulty@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Elaine.Mcnulty@doe.nh.gov)

### **F. Special Education, Accessible Instructional Materials (NHAIM), Workshops**

**Topic:** NHAIM / The Importance of Braille Literacy

**When:** Friday, April 13, 2012 ~ 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kim Stiles along with an American Printing House for the Blind (APH) Representative

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

**Description:** This presentation speaks to parents and school staff to help understand the importance of Braille Literacy for students.

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**Topic:** NHAIM / The Digital Light Box

**When:** Wednesday, April 18, 2012 ~ 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Presenter: Kim Stiles along with an APH Representative

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

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**Topic:** NHAIM / Cortical Visual Impairment

**When:** Monday, April 30, 2012 ~ 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Presenter: Christina Roman from APH

Intended Audience: Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

**Description:** To help parents and educators gain a better understanding of Cortical Visual Impairment. Dr. Christina Roman is the APH Project Leader in the area of Cortical Visual Impairments. Chris, a well-known educator, author, and lecturer, has provided a number of

National Instructional Partnerships events for APH in the area of CVI as it relates to APH products. She is a member of our CVI Synergy focus group, and was instrumental in helping us develop and refine the "FDB" (Functions at the Definition of Blindness) category in the Federal Quota Student Registration System.

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**Topic:** NHAIM / Cortical Visual Impairment

**When:** Tuesday May 1, 2012 ~ 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Presenter:** Christina Roman from APH

**Intended Audience:** Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teachers of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

**Description:** To help parents and educators gain a better understanding of Cortical Visual Impairment. Dr. Christina Roman is the APH Project Leader in the area of Cortical Visual Impairments. Chris, a well-known educator, author, and lecturer, has provided a number of National Instructional Partnerships events for APH in the area of CVI as it relates to APH products. She is a member of our CVI Synergy focus group, and was instrumental in helping us develop and refine the "FDB" (Functions at the Definition of Blindness) category in the Federal Quota Student Registration System.

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**Topic:** NHAIM / Book Port Plus

**When:** Friday, May 4, 2012 ~ 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Presenter:** Kim Stiles along with an APH Representative

**Intended Audience:** Administrators, General and Special Education Educators, Teacher's of the Visually Impaired, and Parents

**Description:** Book Port Plus™ represents the latest generation of accessible media player/recorders. Its small size, quality recording, and unique capabilities make it an ideal replacement for cassette player/recorders, earlier Digital Talking Book (DTB) players, or inaccessible commercial digital recorders. Its specialized hardware and software makes Book Port Plus easier to use, more reliable, and more flexible than cell phones or PCs that might perform some of its functions.

All workshops will take place at the NHDOE in Room 15. Further information on products and presenters can be found at: [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org).

Contact: Kerry Schmidt, (603) 271-0818, [Kerry.Schmidt@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Kerry.Schmidt@doe.nh.gov)

### **G. Save the Date ~ Seventh Annual APEX Summer Leadership Institute**

The APEX Summer Leadership Institute, *Multi-tiered Systems of Support: Teamwork, Leadership, and Data-Based Decision-Making to Prepare Every Student for Career and Adult Life*, is designed for teams from middle and high schools to build their skills and knowledge in implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in order to improve their school culture and climate, improve student engagement, and produce higher graduation rates for all students. The Institute is also designed for students to build their personal and community leadership skills and to develop goals for their transition from school to adult life. Finally, the Institute offers an opportunity for policy makers, families, and community members to learn about the advantages of implementing PBIS and a three-tiered framework

of school reform. This institute will take place August 15-16, 2012 at the Attitash Inn and Conference Center, Bartlett, NH. For the most updated information, visit [www.iod.unh.edu/apexsi](http://www.iod.unh.edu/apexsi).

Contact: McKenzie Harrington, (603) 271-3739, [McKenzie.Harrington@doe.nh.gov](mailto:McKenzie.Harrington@doe.nh.gov)

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## OTHER

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### **Gifted Education Awards**

Nominations are now being accepted for "New Hampshire Gifted Educator of the Year," and the "Nicholas Green" award which goes to an outstanding student in grades 3-6. You may go to [www.nhage.org](http://www.nhage.org) for further information and details.

### **HEAL Excellence in Education Award**

The second Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) "ED"ie award will be given this year to a school in New Hampshire that is outstanding in creating an environment that supports healthy eating and physical activity opportunities and is achieving positive results for students and staff. The health of students is important to schools and a growing body of research indicates a positive association between school-based physical activity and academic performance. For more information and an application go to [www.healnh.org](http://www.healnh.org). Nominations for the HEAL "ED"ie are due by March 30, 2012.

### **National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) Scholarship**

The Boston NE NATAS Scholarship Foundation, Inc. (in coordination with the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts And Sciences) will award a \$2,500 scholarship to a high school senior who intends on declaring their major in the television or related field and will be attending a four year undergraduate college or university.

The deadline to apply is March 31, 2012. An application can be found at [www.newenglandemmy.org](http://www.newenglandemmy.org). If you have any questions, please contact Jill D. Jones, NATAS Boston/New England, (617) 283-6314 or [www.newenglandemmy.org](http://www.newenglandemmy.org).

### **ASAP Innovation Competition**

The Active Schools Acceleration Project (ASAP) announced the launch of their national Innovation Competition to uncover the very best programs and technologies to promote school-based physical activity. This nationwide competition is designed to identify and reward innovative and impactful physical activity programs and technologies with excellent promise to motivate quality physical activity at school and beyond. The competition will award multiple prizes ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 to schools with the best, most innovative programs for getting students to be physically active. This opportunity is for programs currently being used in elementary schools (ages 5-12, K-6th grade). The deadline for entries is April, 2, 2012. Visit [www.ActiveSchoolsASAP.org](http://www.ActiveSchoolsASAP.org) for more information.

### **Earth Artists Program**

The Paul G. Keough Earth Artists program is adapting to engage students and teachers of today on a broader spectrum. With technology where it is today, in addition to poem and posters, they encourage submissions of: photography, sculpture, architectural design, constructed models, video documenting musical or dramatic performance and more. The



2012 program is designed to promote an excitement for the arts; sciences and specifically environmental awareness in New England. They want to encourage young minds to combine a knowledge of nature (science) with sustainable thinking (design). Students should submit art work representing the project they have been working on. Participants can include a school class (kindergarten through 6th grade), youth organization, or an after school program. For an application or more information go to [www.epa.gov/region1/students/poem.html](http://www.epa.gov/region1/students/poem.html). Deadline to apply is April 30, 2012.

### **2012 NH High School Short Film Festival**

The New Hampshire Film and Television Office, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, will once again present the New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival, which will take place in June 2012. Students from NH public and private high schools are encouraged to start planning and producing their projects, which do not have to be created as part of a class assignment. The submission period closes March 31, 2012. More details are available at [www.nhstudentfilm.com](http://www.nhstudentfilm.com). Media arts faculty interested in receiving updates about the Festival via e-mail should contact [film@nh.gov](mailto:film@nh.gov).

### **New Hampshire Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest**

Young New Hampshire artists from kindergarten through grade 12 are invited to submit original artwork depicting North American waterfowl to the 2012 New Hampshire Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest. The Best-of-Show winner will receive a \$500 scholarship, made possible by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All first-place winners will be awarded cash prizes of up to \$75. Entries are judged on both artistic merit and scientific accuracy with which specific waterfowl species are depicted. Competition guidelines and an entry form can be downloaded from [www.wildnh.com/Education/Junior\\_Duck\\_Contest.htm](http://www.wildnh.com/Education/Junior_Duck_Contest.htm), or contact N.H. Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest Coordinator Ellen MacNeil at the N.H. Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 or call (603) 271-2461. Entries must be postmarked by March 15, 2012.

Teachers who want to integrate these lessons into their coursework can find a curriculum guide for teaching conservation through the arts at [www.fws.gov/juniorduck/EducationProgram.htm](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/EducationProgram.htm).

### **No Bull Teen Video Contest**

The Great American NO BULL Challenge is an annual campaign that inspires America's 25 million teens to stand up against bullying by creating videos with an anti-bullying message. The NO BULL Challenge is a free campaign and platform that can be used to educate middle and high school students about bullying awareness and prevention by integrating social media, scholarships, prizes and a red carpet awards event (Teen Video Awards, produced by Live Nation) to highlight the best of the best videos from around the country. Both students and educators are provided all of the necessary resources they need via the online NO BULL toolkits. To learn more about the campaign or to get started go to [www.nobullchallenge.org](http://www.nobullchallenge.org). Video upload deadline is March 31, 2012.

### **The National WWII Museum Essay Contest.**

The 2012 essay contest is now open for submissions. As The National WWII Museum launches a series of new STEM-based programs this year, we call on students to answer the question, "What WWII invention or innovation has had the greatest impact on your life?" As in years past, the Museum does not want research papers. Students' essays will be judged



foremost for their originality, clarity of expression, and adherence to contest theme, as well as their historical accuracy, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. WWII Museum staff will read and evaluate entries. All essays must be submitted through the Museum Web site at [www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests). Deadline is Friday, March 30, 2012.

### **Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF) Grants**

In this program, CLiF arranges to have a local children's book author or illustrator visit rural elementary schools and give an all-school presentation in which the presenter shares his/her passion for reading, writing, bookmaking, and storytelling. Collaborating with almost 50 Vermont and New Hampshire-based authors and illustrators, CLiF is able to reach children who might not otherwise have the chance to meet such talented writers and artists. This event is provided at no cost to the school. Only elementary schools in towns with fewer than 5,000 residents are eligible to apply for this grant. CLiF prefers to sponsor elementary schools that do not already have such presentations on a regular basis. For more information or to apply go to <http://clifonline.org> and click on "apply." The deadline for applications is March 16th. Contact Julia Rogers ([julia@clifonline.org](mailto:julia@clifonline.org)) with any questions.

### **Archaeology Teacher Workshop**

Teachers interested in adding archaeology to their teaching toolkits are invited to attend a Project Archaeology Teacher Workshop on Friday, April 20, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at St. Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, NH. Presented by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR), the New Hampshire State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) and St. Gaudens, this teacher workshop offers hands-on interdisciplinary lessons in social studies, math, science, art, communication and language arts. It provides a means to increase environmental awareness, higher-level thinking skills, stewardship values and multi-cultural appreciation. Cost of course is \$45. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information visit: [www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/project\\_archaeology.html](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/programs/project_archaeology.html) or call Tanya Krajcik at (603) 271-6568.

### **Common Core Math Workshop**

Instructional Strategies and Models to Conquer the Math Common Core Curriculum will take place April 13th, at Pinkerton Academy in Derry, NH. At this workshop participants will learn how to help students become more precise and fluent in explaining and applying math concepts, and more successful in their analysis and solving of real world problems. Participants will also practice numerous strategies that can be easily implemented in their own classrooms. To register or for more information go to [www.nhascd.net](http://www.nhascd.net).

### **Embedded Formative Assessment Workshop & Math Academy**

- a) Granite State College is organizing a full day session on Embedded Formative Assessment featuring Dr. Dylan Wiliam, Emeritus Professor of Educational Assessment at the Institute of Education, University of London, where he served as Deputy Director from 2006 to 2010. Throughout his career, he has taught in public schools, directed a large-scale testing program, served a number of roles in university administration, including Dean of the School of Education, and pursued a research program focused on supporting teachers to develop their use of assessment as a key component for learning. The July 18, 2012 keynote/workshop event will take place at the Crown Plaza in Nashua, cost is \$160 per person, and open for anyone interested in attending.

- b) The two day Math Academy following Dr. William's workshop has been created to explore the pivotal building blocks and learning progressions that provide the highest possibility of success for student learners as evidenced by student achievement. Participation in the Academy is limited to teams from four elementary schools. Go to [www.granite.edu/mathacademy](http://www.granite.edu/mathacademy) or contact Michelle Fox at [michelle.fox@granite.edu](mailto:michelle.fox@granite.edu) to obtain an application. The application deadline is March 20th.

### **Diversity Conference**

The New Hampshire Division of Casey Family Services is pleased to present its seventh Diversity Conference. The event, *Beyond the Comfort Zone: The 2012 Diversity Experience* will be held May 9 and 10, 2012, at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH.

The Diversity Conference touches a wide range of topics, embracing the breadth of what the word "diversity" encompasses. The conference is rich with personal stories and affords participants the opportunity to walk away with tools they can use in their personal and professional lives. For more information go to [www.caseyfamilyservices.org/resources/eventconferencematerials](http://www.caseyfamilyservices.org/resources/eventconferencematerials), or contact [bpelczar@caseyfamilyservices.org](mailto:bpelczar@caseyfamilyservices.org) or [lchildress@caseyfamilyservices.org](mailto:lchildress@caseyfamilyservices.org) or call 1 (800) 417-7375.

### **Leveraging Technology for Professional Learning, Teacher Effectiveness and Student Achievement**

Learning Forward NH will host its 7th annual conference, *Leveraging Technology for Professional Learning, Teacher Effectiveness and Student Achievement* on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH. The conference will feature Dr. Ruben Puentedura, founder of Hippasus, an educational consulting firm. His work focuses on transforming education by combining a broad range of information technologies with novel educational approaches and rigorous metrics for the evaluation of results. He is involved with the Maine Learning Technology Initiative working with educators on the integration of pedagogy, technology and content. Registration and details at [www.lfnh.org](http://www.lfnh.org).

### **New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics 2012 Annual Spring Conference**

*Connecting with the Common Core and More!* will take place Friday, March 23, 2012 at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. The Key Note Speaker, J. Michael Shaughnessy, President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), will share some recent developments in NCTM's ongoing initiative on Reasoning and Sense Making. Participants will have an opportunity to engage in a reasoning task, and to view and discuss examples of video clips and student work samples from tasks from NCTM's newly created Reasoning and Sense Making task bank. Featured Workshops include: Competencies and Performance Indicators for the Common Core (9-12); New Eyes on Classic Problems (6-12); New Make and Take Style Workshops (5-10); Algebra and the Common Core (K-2); and Supporting Mathematical Skills and Concepts Through Technology (PreK – 5). To register or for more information go to <http://tinyurl.com/NHTM-Spring-Conference>.

### **Playing with Force and Motion: A Workshop for Elementary Teachers**

Elementary teachers are asked to provide their students with experiences in the physical sciences—but what physics is appropriate at these ages? And how should it be taught?

Come explore how elementary students can investigate force and motion in engaging ways, while still meeting state standards and frameworks. Discussions will be held around materials, appropriate areas of study, and teaching strategies. Led by Jeff Winokur, an early childhood and elementary science specialist and a professor in the Elementary Education Department at Wheelock College-Boston. This workshop will take place Monday, April 2, 2012 from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at The Build Station, 99 Rockingham Park Blvd., Salem, NH. Cost: \$40 (\$35 district teams of 5 or more). To register call (603) 685-3977.

### **School Climate & Learning NH Conference**

*The Youth Voice Project - What Young People Want You to Know about Bullying Prevention* is being held Friday, June 1, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Mill Falls Inn, Church Landing in Meredith, NH.

Join Stan Davis and Charisse Nixon, PhD to explore what works and what doesn't work in creating positive school climates as they highlight their compelling and applicable findings from the national Youth Voice Project. This day is full of practical strategies supported by new research from one of the nation's most promising research on youth perspectives in bullying prevention efforts. The purpose of the day is to share with NH school and community practitioners and leaders useful strategies to apply in your school community to build and maintain a safe school culture that is an enjoyable space to teach & learn. For more information go to [www.school-climate-consulting.org](http://www.school-climate-consulting.org).

### **Cross Cultural Opportunity**

New Hampshire public high schools have an opportunity to participate in the World by hosting fee-paying students from a variety of nations. Blue River, a firm out of New Zealand, is offering NH schools assistance to emulate the process which has brought 10,000 fee-paying international students to NZ, as well as to schools in Australia, Canada, and Great Britain.

Contact: Kenneth J. Relihan, (603) 271-6151, [Ken.Relihan@doe.nh.gov](mailto:Ken.Relihan@doe.nh.gov)

### **The Frost Place Museum and Educational Center**

The Frost Place is a museum and nonprofit educational center for poetry and the arts based at Robert Frost's old homestead. Throughout the summer The Frost Place offers a variety of poetry programs (Conference on Poetry and Teaching, Festival and Conference on Poetry, and Advanced Seminar). For more information and application details go to [www.frostplace.org](http://www.frostplace.org) or contact Sue Jessen at (603) 823-5510.

### **Hat Trick for Reading Program - 2012**

The Manchester Monarchs "Hat Trick for Reading" Program is designed to help stimulate interest in reading among Elementary School children (grades K-5) in New Hampshire, as well as surrounding areas. This program will be open to Public School, Private School, and Home School Groups.

Each participant is asked to read at least three books during a specified time period (usually three to four weeks.) It will be up to the Media Specialist, Teacher, or School Administration to determine appropriate reading materials. After students complete their reading, they will be required to submit to the teacher "proof" they read their book (i.e. AR test, essay, report, etc.).

You can choose one of the following dates for your school to participate in the program, once you select a date for your school the Monarchs will provide you with a form to send home to parents. Dates to choose from: March 11th or 25th or April 15th.

The students who complete the program will receive a ticket to the game you have chosen for your school and the parents will be offered a discount rate for extra tickets. Students will also receive a 2011-2012 Monarchs Education day workbook while supplies last. Your school will sit together at the game and be announced on the video board. All paid tickets will receive a free voucher for 1 chuck a puck.

For more information about how your school can benefit from the Monarchs "Hat Trick for Reading" Program, please contact Bob McCaffrey at (603) 626-7825 or Email: [Rmccaffrey@manchestemonarchs.com](mailto:Rmccaffrey@manchestemonarchs.com).

### **NH Poetry Out Loud High School Championships**

The statewide final competition for the 2012 New Hampshire Poetry Out Loud program will take place at Representatives Hall at the State House in Concord on March 26 at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public and there is no charge for admission. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. At the finals, champions from the state's four semi-final competitions will vie for the chance to represent New Hampshire at the national championship in Washington, D.C., where \$50,000 in scholarships and school prizes will be awarded. Poetry Out Loud is a nationwide program of the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) carried out in partnership with the Poetry Foundation. It encourages the nation's youth to learn about the beauty and power of language through memorization and performance of great poems. For additional information about NH Poetry Out Loud, go to at [www.nh.gov/nharts](http://www.nh.gov/nharts), click on the "Poetry Out Loud" button or contact Catherine O'Brian, New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at (603) 271-0795, [Catherine.R.OBrian@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:Catherine.R.OBrian@dcr.nh.gov).

### **Stupid Cancer**

Stupid Cancer is a support group for teens with loved ones who have experienced cancer. Meet other teens who are going through similar experiences. Find understanding, support and friendship. The group will meet at the Concord Hospital Payson Center for Cancer Care on March 30th, April 6th and 13th from 3:00p.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information or to register, call Justin at (603) 230-6030.